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The Highlander

Thursday **October 10 2024** | Issue 661

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

FREE



Keeping Terry's memory alive

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students set off for the 27th annual Terry Fox run Oct. 9. Teacher Paul Longo said they were well on their way to raising \$4,000 this year. He added the school had generated more than \$100,000 over the years for cancer research.

Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Skyline Park to get Rotary-fueled facelift

By Lisa Gervais

Rotary Club of Haliburton member Ursula Devolin stands at the Skyline Park scenic overlook and points to the right towards the home she grew up in. A Beachli then, she said the family would drive up most autumns and pose for a family photo at the lookout. Coming up a couple of years ago, when

proposing Skyline Park as the club's next big capital project, she said, "I just felt sad and that we can do so much better than this. It used to be so nice. The day I came up was dreary, there was garbage littered about, the stone barbecues were broken. I thought 'it needs some love and care'."

She said if people look at museum photos,

or anybody's old photos, you could see down to the high school, "so we just want to open it back up."

They are doing far more than that, with the club undertaking an ambitious \$300,000 to \$400,000 improvement plan over the next three to four years.

The park is owned by the Ministry of

Transportation (MTO) and designated a rest stop on the provincial highway. It was dedicated by Leslie M. Frost on June 20, 1958. The MTO maintains the park through a contract with a local company, but, "there has been little or no capital improvement during the past 65 years," Rotary says.

Continued 'Fundraising' on page 2

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Ursula Devolin, John Beachli, Chuck Wheeler, and Gerry MacDonald, work to clear trees and brush at the top of Skyline Park Oct. 7. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Fundraising and community support needed

Continued from page 1

“The Rotary Club believes it needs repairs and a refresh so the community and tourists can continue to enjoy the park and the spectacular view.”

They have struck a Rotary Skyline Park project committee. It’s taken about two years to get an agreement with MTO to do the work. They consulted a local landscape company for a concept plan. The first phase involved removing dead and diseased trees, and concrete repairs to the existing viewing platform. On Oct. 7, four members were

working to remove trees and brush in front of the platform, although all Rotarians are volunteering their time. If weather permits, they will begin grading this fall.

Other jobs include: extending the viewing lookout, creating a new upper viewing platform for people with mobility issues, building two new picnic pavilions with concrete pads and covered roofs, building year-round accessible washrooms to replace the seasonal toilets, providing new benches and picnic tables, improving paths using recycled asphalt, drawing parking lines and creating designated bus parking, installing

display boards highlighting the community’s history and current attractions, improving safety, fencing and signs, and removing old stone BBQs.

Devolin and committee spokesperson Chuck Wheeler said the work will be done in stages as funds become available.

Wheeler said, “fundraising and community support will be an important part of this project. Though the club has funds allocated for a portion of the work, they will launch community fundraisers for specific phases for the capital improvement project.

“The club will also accept gifts of materials

for the park.”

The club thanked the Haliburton County Development Corporation for funding; and Dysart et al and Haliburton County tourism for support.

In recent years, the Rotary Club of Haliburton has been involved in developments in Head Lake Park, and the band shelter, donations for new playground equipment, the skateboard park, welcome centre and more. The club is celebrating its 80th year.



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Minnicock Lake Road tower site ‘a disaster’

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al resident Michael Butz said he wasn’t shocked when, late last month, he found an excavator sinking into the ground at a future cell tower site at Minnicock Lake Road, saying the area is a natural wetland.

Butz, his wife Susan, and neighbours of Minnicock Lake and Glamorgan roads have opposed the tower for more than two years. It was the first location in Dysart et al selected as part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network’s (EORN) Cell Gap Project, which aims to bridge cellular dead zones in rural areas and improve connectivity for 99 per cent of residents in the region.

Telecommunications giant Rogers is partnering with EORN on the project, responsible for sourcing tower sites and overseeing construction.

Butz said there weren’t any Rogers representatives on-site the last week in September, when issues arose. He contends workers from Quebec-based Qualnet Wireless Services first arrived about six weeks ago. Butz watched as they prepped the site, clearing trees and digging deep holes for the tower’s anchors.

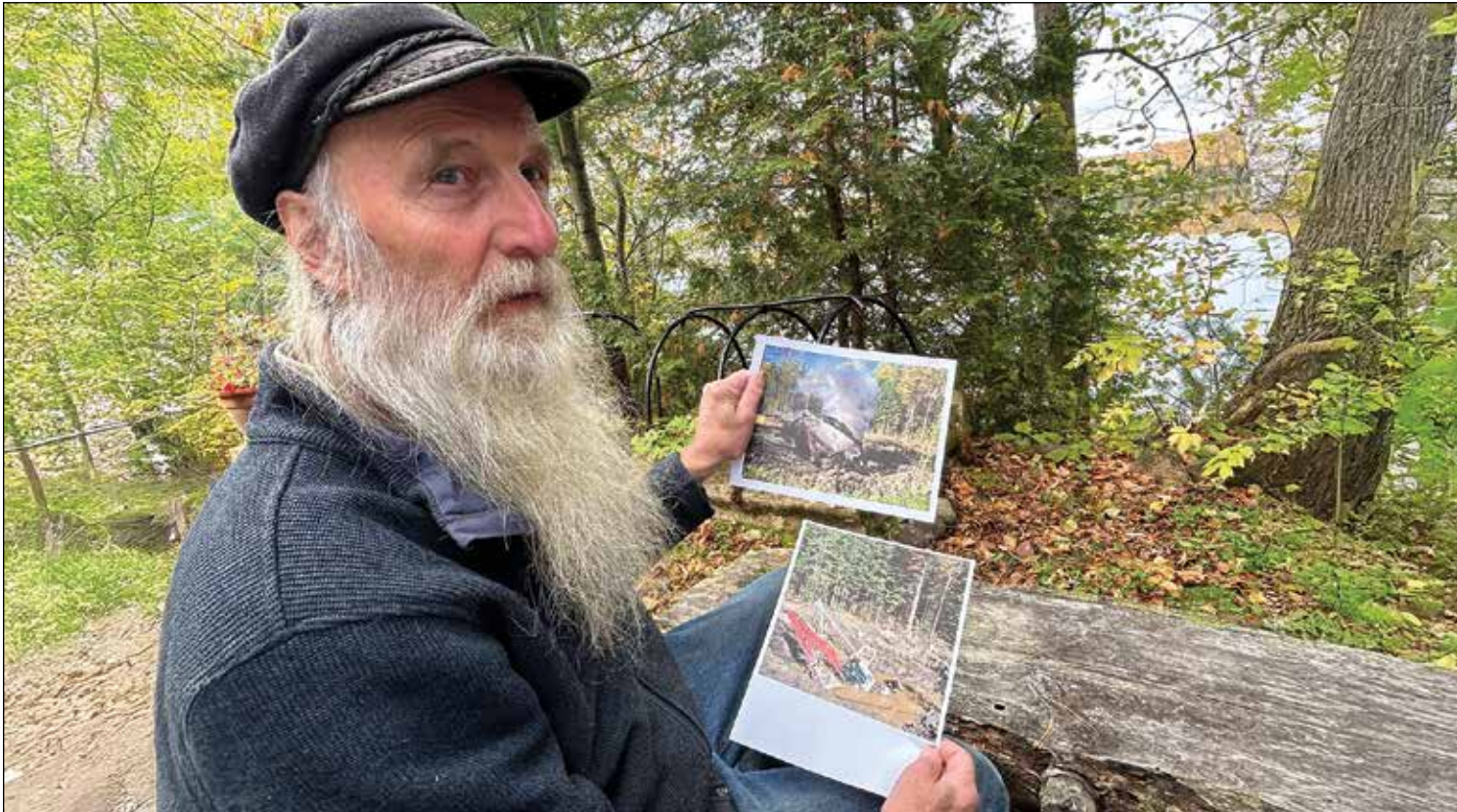
While observing Sept. 27, Butz said he found workers “panicked, not sure what to do” after an excavator started to sink. “It got stuck pretty good, the water was up into the cab at one point,” Butz said. “Then the engine caught fire when they were trying to get it out. It was quite the scene.”

He contacted the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP), who sent someone to investigate Oct. 2. MECP spokesperson Gary Wheeler said officials concluded there was no spill of contaminants that would pose a risk to the natural environment or human health.

Butz contends water has been rushing to the surface any time workers dig, which he feels proves the area is a natural wetland – something he’s been preaching for years.

“It’s clear for anyone to see – there’s a spring that comes through there. The wetland is actually identified on the Haliburton County GIS map. There are bullrushes on that site too, indicating it’s a wetland,” Butz said, noting he asked Dysart council to insist on Rogers completing an environmental assessment when the application was tabled. Butz claims that didn’t happen.

Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey, who wasn’t



Michael Butz took several photos of the Minnicock Lake Road cell tower site, where an excavator got stuck in mud and water last week. Photo by Mike Baker.

on council when the project was approved, said the township’s hands are tied.

“We really don’t have any say. People think council can just snap their fingers and say ‘no’ and defeat this. We have to have a reason, and the reason has to contravene the federal regulations. That’s what we’re guided by,” Fearrey said.

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is the sole approval authority for cell tower applications nationwide. Wheeler noted federal infrastructure undertakings relating to cell towers are exempt from municipal and provincial legislation, including The Planning Act, site plan control and zoning bylaws, the Ontario Building Code, The Species At-Risk Act, and provincial conservation authority legislation.

He said MECP had been in touch with ISED to relay public concern and submit observations from the Oct. 2 visit.

Aftermath

The excavator was saved, Butz confirmed, with a local firm called in to assist with its removal. He said crews laid down logs and stone so they could get something in to remove the machine and then buried it all.

Fearrey noted there’s nothing within the township’s records indicating the area is a provincial environmental protection zone, or wetland.

Elizabeth Purcell, the County’s director of planning, noted the GIS mapping does show wetland along Minnicock Lake Road – though not in the direct vicinity of the tower site. The tower will be located on Lot 24, Con 1, while the main wetland is located on Lot 26, Con 1, Purcell said. She said there is a smaller wetland feature in the southwestern area of Lot 24, but based on materials Rogers submitted to Dysart, it’s far enough away from where the tower will be built.

Jeff Iles, Dysart’s director of planning, noted in a 2022 report a “small stream” was

located about 20 metres from the site, but that it appeared dry during parts of the year. He also noted the property was screened for species-at-risk, with nothing found.

Karl Korpela, who heads up Dysart’s bylaw department, said he reviewed whether the township’s site alteration bylaw may apply but since the property is not waterfront, and there’s no mapped environmental protection zone, there’s nothing the municipality can do.

While he remains staunchly opposed to the build, Butz said he knows the horse has already bolted.

“There is no resolution for me and I know that. This was the wrong place to put the tower all along. I still think the spot on Telephone Bay Road would be better – it’s higher and it serves an area that has no cell service. We have two bars here already,” Butz said.

Nilani Logeswaran, Rogers spokesperson, said construction will continue with completion expected in December.



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Lookout benefits Highlands, not just ski hill

By Lisa Gervais

Riding the chairlift towards the newly-opened tower at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, owner Doug Wilkinson shares the back story of how the viewing platform has come about.

His mother, Evelyn, passed away in early 2022 and, "this was something I wanted to build in her honour," Wilkinson shares. He notes Evelyn, or Ev, are the same initials as Eagle View. The Wilkinson family rebranded the event centre at the bottom of the hill as the Eagle View Wedding and Event Venue when they bought it.

"It will be nice to finally put her to rest," Wilkinson says of the opening of the tower, which was first announced in summer 2022.

It's been 2.5 years in the making, with inevitable delays, especially coming out of COVID when contractors and materials were in high demand. However, the tower will be open Friday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; then, all weekend (Saturday and Sunday) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as the chairlift. It's \$5 to climb.

Wilkinson said, "the main thing is just really to show off the view of the area. We like to say we think we've got the best view in Ontario and we've just made it a

heck of a lot better by being up top."

The owner estimates they have spent about \$450,000 to date on the 60-foot tower and viewing platform and will spend more when they put composite decking on in future.

In addition to fall leaf viewing, he added, "we expect people will use it for different things – hopefully fall colours as part of hiking and biking, and then if we can get some weddings up top that would be a lot of fun. We have had a couple of requests from people to go up and do proposals. It's a beautiful place to do it. And we can rent it out to corporates, who can put 50 people up top if they want to do a sunny, afternoon meeting."

Wilkinson added it will benefit the Highlands, not just Sir Sam's.

"The tower is an asset for the region and tourism, another reason for Haliburton County to be a destination, versus people driving up Hwy. 35 and heading to Algonquin Park."

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride owner Doug Wilkinson at the Eagle View tower.

Photo by Lisa Gervais.



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The MNRF has endorsed Dysart et al's deer feeding bylaw. pxhere.com.

MNRF backs Dysart in deer feeding debate

By Mike Baker

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has said it has no problem with Dysart et al's bylaw prohibiting deer feeding in Haliburton village.

Responding to claims by Highlands businessman Phil Primavera, who owns Haliburton Feed and Seed on Mallard Road, that the legislation contravened the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, MNRF spokesperson, Mike Fenn, gave the township the green light this week.

"Currently, there are no regulations under the Act that ban feeding wildlife... municipalities can create bylaws related to public safety, which can be affected by human-wildlife conflicts," Fenn said. "Regulations can be made about feeding wildlife, including baiting for hunting."

"Baiting for hunting is allowed in some cases, but it's not mandatory. Municipal bylaws that ban feeding or baiting wildlife do not conflict with provincial rules," Fenn added, noting many other municipalities have implemented similar legislation.

Dysart introduced its bylaw in June 2023, initially outlawing deer feeding in Ward 1 between May 1 and Sept. 30, though an update last November made it a blanket ban – meaning no deer to be fed at any time.

Hailey Cole, a bylaw officer with the township, said four tickets have been issued so far this year, with violators fined \$150 - though at least two tickets, issued to Primavera, were dropped.

Council implemented the new rules after hearing from Haliburton residents, Mike and Debra Landry, who said an increased presence of deer in the downtown area has

led to more accidents on Haliburton's roads – estimating around 100 collisions between animals and vehicles annually.

Others complained about deer destroying their personal gardens, while Country Rose owner, Shelley Stiles, told council deer have destroyed thousands of dollars of stock in recent years.

Primavera said he's not dissuaded by the MNRF response. Since an initial story published in the Oct. 3 *Highlander*, he estimated around 150 people had visited his business to discuss the bylaw and sign his petition, calling for the legislation to be repealed. The petition now has more than 570 signatures.

"I'm still going to bring the petition to council – I think there's a difference between [what MNRF] allows and what is constitutional," he said.

Primavera feeds deer at his Mallard Road business – often fruits and vegetables past their prime. He said he'll dump a pile beside his building and watch as deer emerge from the forest for a snack. This week, it was a batch of around 200 apples, which were gone within a day.

If he didn't feed the deer, Primavera said he'd have been forced to take the apples to the landfill – creating unnecessary waste.

"They're already complaining about the massive amount of garbage that's going into the ground... I'd much rather let the wildlife have it," he said.

Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey felt the MNRF response drew a line under the issue, reiterating council has no appetite to repeal or amend the bylaw.



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Mixed bag for TLDSB student testing

By Mike Baker

Trillium Lakelands District School Board students are testing at, or above, the provincial average in four of eight core study areas at both the elementary and secondary level.

Every fall, the Education Quality and Assessment Office (EQAO) releases annual results for testing completed during the previous school year, providing a snapshot of how Highlands' students are doing compared to youth from other regions. The results are for the whole board, not County schools.

Students in Grades 3 and 6 are quizzed on their reading, writing and mathematics abilities, while Grade 9 students are tested in math only. Students in Grade 10 are assessed via the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

The County's earliest learners are performing well, said superintendent Jay MacJanet, who looks after programming for Kindergarten to Grade 8. He noted Grade 3 students all tested over the provincial average in 2023/24, with 76 per cent reading at a Level 3 or 4 standard. This improved one per cent from the 2022/23 school year and is up six per cent from 2021/22. Provincially, 71 per cent of students are reading at an acceptable level.

The board's Grade 3 writing results dipped one per cent from 2022/23, with 67 per cent of students at Level 3 and 4, though that was still ahead of the provincial average of 64 per cent. There were major strides in math

testing, with 69 per cent of TLDSB students meeting expectations – a four per cent rise from last year, and 13 per cent increase from two years ago. The provincial average is 61 per cent.

There's some literacy work to do at the Grade 6 level at TLDSB – 81 per cent of students are at or above the provincial average for reading, a two per cent drop from 2022/23 and down three per cent from 2021/22. The provincial average is 82 per cent.

On the writing side, 79 per cent are at a Level 3 or 4 standard – exactly in line with the provincial average. There was improvement in math too – 49 per cent of TLDSB students are where they need to be, up two per cent from last year and nine per cent from two years ago.

MacJanet said the introduction of classroom coaches in 2023 was a big reason for the improvements at local elementary schools. One of the benefits, he said, is coaches can support students in one-on-one instruction or small group settings to ensure they're understanding assignments.

All elementary schools within TLDSB have daily access to a teaching and learning coach, while HHSS had a full-time coach to support Grade 9 students in 2023/24.

"These coaches work closely with administrators and classroom teachers on school specific goals... and work in classrooms to support capacity building, which in turn supports the student's success," MacJanet said.



TLDSB has seen a marked improvement in math testing over the past two years. *File.*

Students are performing below the provincial average at TLDSB's seven high schools. Around 47 per cent of students are at Level 3 or 4, down three per cent from last year and seven per cent under the provincial average.

The board reported 84 per cent of students passed the OSSLT, just one per cent off the provincial average. Particularly impressive, notes superintendent Kim Williams, is that 96 per cent of students enrolled in academic classes passed the literacy test – a nice bump

over the provincial average of 90 per cent.

She said classroom coaches had a positive impact on applied-level students, with 67 per cent passing the literacy test – 11 per cent more than the provincial average.

"Coaches add an extra layer of support to help build content knowledge, gather and analyze data, and use that information to improve teaching and learning," Williams said. "We believe these coaches had an impact on student achievement, as well as with teacher confidence."

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Chris Hewson, Minden Pride co-chair, was upset to hear the Head Lake Park gazebo was vandalized with homophobic messaging. The slur was removed Oct. 8. Photo by Mike Baker.

‘Work to do’ after homophobic slur found at Head Lake Park

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands OPP are investigating after a homophobic insult was found inscribed on the Head Lake Park gazebo last week.

Sgt. Paul McDonald told *The Highlander* police followed up on a complaint late last week. The OPP has been working with Dysart et al township to obtain video footage from the park, in the hopes of identifying the culprit.

“We unfortunately do not have a timeframe of when this mischief occurred. Haliburton OPP does not have any further leads on this investigation,” McDonald said.

Highlands resident Matthew Saade said he was participating in an early morning Tai Chi class Oct. 2 when another participant noticed someone had vandalized the gazebo with permanent marker. The letters ‘A+H’ were written within a love heart – usually a sign of two people being in a relationship, with the letters representing names.

The word “faggot” – a derogatory term for gay people – was written beside the love heart.

“The message specifically targeted the LGBTQ+ community, underscoring the persistent presence of homophobia and hate in our community,” said Saade, who is gay.

He feels the incident highlights the importance of visible symbols like Pride flags, saying there should be more education and promotion of the LGBTQ+ community in Haliburton County.

“These are not mere gestures, but powerful statements of solidarity and equality. They stand for inclusion and human dignity, and it is crucial that our elected officials lead by example, demonstrating that hate has no place here,” Saade said.

Minden Hills routinely flies the rainbow flag during Pride Month in June and again for Minden Pride festivities in August, but Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, and Highlands East have yet to follow suit.

Minden Pride co-chair Chris Hewson said

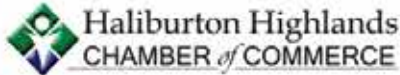
he was “deeply saddened” when he heard about the vandalism.

“Head Lake Park is meant to be a place where everyone - regardless of who they love or how they identify - should feel welcome, safe, and respected,” Hewson said. “Acts of hate like this remind us that the work of building a truly inclusive community is far from over.”

Hewson added, “Minden Pride stands firm in our commitment to fostering love, understanding, and unity. We encourage our neighbours to join us in rejecting hate and building a future where all people are free to live authentically and without fear.”

Dysart’s programs and events manager, Andrea Mueller, confirmed the township’s parks staff removed the graffiti Oct. 8.

McDonald encouraged anyone with information to contact police, saying all tips will be investigated. Call Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122, Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or submit online at khcrimestoppers.com.



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To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Good over evil

It would be easy to dismiss the homophobic slur that was on the Head Lake Park bandstand Oct. 2.

It was hard to see the marker on the wooden grain. An ‘A’ and an ‘H’ in a heart with the word ‘faggot’ written underneath.

It was visible enough, though, to people doing Tai Chi in the bandstand that Wednesday.

One of them, a gay man, immediately fired off emails to Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey, Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen and CAO Angie Bird, and County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke, which he copied to *The Highlander*.

He told them he was writing to express his deep concern after encountering hate speech etched on the post of the main gazebo in Head Lake Park. He said the message specifically targeted the LGBTQ+ community, underscoring the persistent presence of homophobia and hate in our community, despite efforts to foster inclusion.

He further indicated it is another example of why Dysart et al and Algonquin Highlands should join Minden Hills in flying the Pride flag as powerful statements of solidarity and equality, standing for inclusion and human dignity.

The slur has since been removed and OPP are looking into it. However, it is unlikely the culprit will ever be found.

We can conjecture that it was the act of a school student who was doing what many kids do when they are growing up, writing ‘faggot’ in a public place. We could also hide behind the fact it was not very easy to see, so therefore on the minor scale of homophobia. However, that would be an easy dismissal.

We don’t know who ‘A’ and ‘H’ are. We wonder how they feel about being called ‘faggots.’ Surely, not great. And what of others who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. They have witnessed Minden Pride make great strides in the past eight years, but surely must be discouraged every time something like this happens.

As a community, we are often too dismissive of not only homophobic slurs, but racial slurs. We turn a blind eye. We find excuses. Some hold the same biases but would never disclose them publicly for fear of being perceived as not politically correct.

For example, I have heard people in this County complain about immigrants they say

are taking locals’ jobs. However, they do not realize that there are no locals willing or able to take on some of these jobs. Were it not for the immigrants who have chosen to live and work in Haliburton County, we would be much worse off.

I believe in celebrating diversity – as do 90 per cent of Highlanders. I have already marked Nov. 16 on my calendar and cannot wait for the Diwali night that is being organized by Dance Happens Here Haliburton to celebrate the Indian festival of lights.

For those who do not know, every region in India has distinctive traditions for commemorating Diwali, but whatever the customs, there is agreement that Diwali represents the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and wisdom over ignorance. It’s time all Highlands’ residents do the same.

By Lisa Gervais

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Lifelong love of bees and honey

By Susan Tromanhauser

The rich aroma of a bee house is an early childhood memory for Ron Lofthouse.

At the age of five, he accompanied his parents to purchase a 30-pound pail of honey. The honey was to last the winter, but it began a lifelong passion as a beekeeper.

Lofthouse spent his youth in the Whitby area and after high school attended agriculture school in Ridgetown, near Chatham. He focused on bees. He furthered his education at Cornell University where he graduated as a Master Bee Keeper.

With his post-secondary education complete, Lofthouse married and had children. He entered the business world as a manager at a Whitby Beaver Lumber. A store in Gravenhurst followed and later a flooring distribution company based out of Texas led Lofthouse across southern Ontario. Finally settling with his family in Buckhorn, he was responsible for opening 20 retail stores across Eastern Ontario. He travelled during the day, but Buckhorn’s central location enabled him to be home every night. All along, wherever Lofthouse’s journeyed, he kept bees in his yard and his cultivation of bee products expanded.

As a side hustle, Lofthouse’s bee products were sold across Eastern Ontario as well as Sudbury, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Soon, Loblaws came calling and Lofthouse’s products were available in their many Ontario outlets. To keep up with demand, Lofthouse outsourced to other beekeepers who had in excess of 1,000 hives. The raw honey was brought back to Buckhorn where Lofthouse processed, bottled and shipped his golden commodity.

Juggling his day job selling windows to contractors with his beekeeping enterprise, Lofthouse remained in Buckhorn as a divorced empty-nester. Eventually, he found himself on the internet and met a woman with whom he has a “symbiotic relationship.” After dating a year, they flipped a coin to determine where to cohabitate. Buckhorn or Haliburton? Lofthouse feels by losing the flip he became the eventual winner because he now lives with his new love in a community he adores - Haliburton. However, Lofthouse did not leave behind his first love as the bees came along to his new home.

In Haliburton, Lofthouse, “hoped the bees would help pollinate the limited agricultural area” and he found his gardens flourished but his, “honey production was limited because of forestry domination.” In order to meet his demand, Lofthouse is once again outsourcing bee honey to “supplement shortfall.”

Lofthouse is now in what he calls “retirement mode” but keeps busy selling his wares at local farmers markets as well as writing a honey recipe book to complement his bee products. Lofthouse finds the “farmers market great for selling honey and beeswax product to people who come from all over the world.” Lofthouse is enjoying his retirement years in Haliburton but fondly recalls the age of five, his first discovery of bees and, “the wonderful blend of smells (which) stuck with me the rest of my life.”

Ron Lofthouse. Submitted.

Have an opinion? Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Gorgeous fall photos from Justin Belanger.

LETTERS

The need for speed

Dear editor,

My wife and I agree wholeheartedly with Doug Norris’ letter to the editor regarding vehicles speeding on North Shore Road, from Hwy. 35 through to the airport. Everyone could see the sign monitoring and recording their speed in plenty of time to slow down but the five per cent mentioned that did not slow down don’t care (but isn’t five per cent still too much?). Again, just last week, another tractor trailer came down North Shore and tried to make the turn over the St. Peter’s bridge. He made several attempts until someone advised him that he could go along North Shore east to Airport Road then onto 118. He was blocking cars and scraping the guardrails. This happens quite often because with a speed limit of 50 km/h, Google’s GPS will suggest North Shore Road as a route to Hwy. 118 and Haliburton etc. This should not be put upon the OPP (already stressed) but handled by the municipality. Can we not just make the speed limit change to 40 km/h and signed as a communal residential roadway? Too many cars, trucks and taxis are going over the speed limit and making it quite unsafe for people walking on the road.

Phil Carroll
Algonquin Highlands

Stay the course

Dear editor,

I can’t believe how selfish and ignorant Mr. Primavera is on the deer feeding bylaw. He says he’d like to focus on education and why the deer are here? They are here because people like him have been feeding them, it’s that simple. I have lived on Halbiem Crescent for 30 years. I used to have a vegetable garden, un-fenced, can you imagine? I also had lovely gardens and we only ever saw a deer, if we were lucky, while we walked in Glebe Park. Now, we have to contend with them every day. They are eating vegetation that isn’t natural to their diet, there is deer feces all over our yards, and there is high risk of deer/car collisions. He says he moved up from the city where it isn’t normal to see them outside your front door. It isn’t normal here either unless you are luring them with feed. I love seeing deer, in their natural habitat, not walking down the main street like I did last night, and luckily saw it before I hit it. Now our neighbourhood is on the watch for coyotes. They have been spotted by several people, my husband included, and we can hear them at night. I encourage council to stay the course. The

argument that people can do what they want on their property is weak. There are many examples of this. You can’t set off fireworks any old day, you can’t make excessive noise after certain hours, you must adhere to property standards and zoning restrictions, and I could go on. If Mr. Primavera and others who are still feeding deer truly care about these wild animals, they would understand they are changing the natural course of these beautiful creatures. Please stop your selfish and irresponsible feeding of the deer.

Andrea Roberts
Haliburton

Finding middle ground

Dear editor,

I think it’s a little precious to ban with one hand feeding the deer while the other hand is razing their natural habitat to create more housing for the burgeoning Dysart population and the mayor wanting more citizens to settle here. A healthy economy is a great thing, but surely heads could be put together and come up with a solution that will find the middle so both may be satisfied.

Anne-Marie Borthwick
Drag Lake

Seeking celebrity clowns

Dear editor,

This is the time of year that the Santa Claus parades in both Minden (Saturday, Nov. 16) and in Haliburton (Friday, Nov. 22) villages are looking for parade floats. Last year, the Minden Rotary celebrity clowns attended both parades and handed out little red noses to those standing along the edges of the parades. The 2023 donations collected went to the local food banks. We are looking for adults who can walk the length of the parades. Minden Rotary provides the clown costume. All costumes are provided so that all celebrity clowns look the same as they move along the parade routes. Clowns are handing out little red noses and accepting donations that are gifted to local non-profits. Let us know if you can attend either or both of the Minden or Haliburton Santa Claus parades. We need celebrity clowns. If you would like to fulfill a bucket list dream, or simply want to do something a little extraordinary to give back to your community, call Sally Moore 705-286-4922.

Sally Moore
Minden Hills

Have a photo of the week?
Send your pictures to
editor@thehighlander.ca

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**6522 Gelert Rd., Haliburton
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totalsiteservices.ca**

ADVERTORIAL

Adding a touch of natural sparkle

Sometimes we just want to zhuzh things up.

They're the words of local native plant landscaper Simon Payn, whose company, Grounded, has been helping residents add some natural sparkle to their cottages and shorelines in 2024.

"I've been delighted to work with several clients who don't necessarily want to create traditional gardens, they just want to enhance what they already have.

"They want more flowers and more interest, but they don't want that to come at the expense of biodiversity. Instead, they want to bring on more of it.

"In other words, they want to zhuzh things up."

Payn says the more he spends time in this business, the more he sees people linking gardening with ecological restoration.

"It might not make me popular in the garden centres of some big box stores, but much of traditional 'horticulture' is bad for the environment and therefore bad for us."

He says many of the invasive species we're battling come through the horticulture trade. Indeed, some nurseries are still selling invasive species as groundcover solutions.

"And in a wider sense, there's something about traditional horticulture that continues the belief in human dominance over nature," says the Grounded owner. "Think of all the soil amendments, fertilizers and weedkillers that are promoted as ways to make landscapes that please us (no matter the effects on the rest of nature)."

Adding more nature

Payn says he talked with many Highlanders this year who get that. While shoreline restoration is recognized as important if we want a healthy lake, homeowners and cottagers are also enhancing other parts of their landscapes.

"Last month I finished what I'd call a 'woodland edge' project, where a homeowner had maintained a natural landscape, but they wanted to enhance it

with more colour."

The Haliburton landscaper sees this as a win-win, because when adding more native plants to a cottage landscape, not only do we get more flowers, we also create a better habitat for wildlife.

He says this can be done in many places, such as around the parking, beside the steps to the lake, or on the septic bed.

"In the eco-landscaping circles I move in, there's a lot of talk about how gardening can influence ecological restoration, and vice-versa," he says.

Simon Payn, Grounded "I've completed a course on this topic and am attending another one later this fall. I think this is the future."

He says gardeners and landscapers are getting wise to planting native plants in a naturalistic way, while at the same time, ecological restoration experts are encouraged to make their landscapes attractive to local residents.

Allowing plants to be plants

While Payn is a big advocate of simply adding some native plants to your landscape, he also recognizes the role management plays.

"When you're adding new plants to an existing landscape, it's important to lend a hand, helping the plants you want and discouraging the plants you don't."

Payn describes the process as "dancing with nature" because he's gently steering the landscape while at the same time "allowing plants to be plants".

The landscaper says Grounded will be taking a hands-on approach to projects in 2025. "I'll be with clients until their landscapes fully establish," he says.

"This isn't just because I want happy clients, it's because I know that installing the plants is simply the start. Dancing with nature in the months to come is vital, too."

To find out more about Grounded, visit groundedgardens.ca.

**Natural gardens
and shorelines
designed and installed**

Eco-landscapes
Shorelines
Septic beds

For more info and a free guide to
natural gardens in Haliburton County,
visit groundedgardens.ca





Dorset Arts & Crafts Show
All Ontario Artisans

Saturday, October 12, 2024
10:00am-3:00pm

**Find it, love it, buy it...
then eat lunch!**

Dorset Recreation Centre
1051 Main Street, Dorset • 705-766-9968
recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca
www.algonquinhighlands.ca



Artists making connections

The Studio Tour continues Oct. 12-13 after a gorgeous fall opening weekend Oct. 5-6. Studios will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Artists spread out across the Highlands are exhibiting and selling their work in various mediums. The artists showcase their art out of their personal studios, homes, and garages. By being in an intimate setting, the artists can connect on a personal level and discuss their pieces in detail with art aficionados of all kinds.

Top: Julianne Dewar and Kathleen Dewar have a laugh with some guests. Middle left: A Renee Woltz Pottery display. Middle: Tara Harrison checks out how an earring looks on her. Middle right: A series of paintings by Tracy Lee Green. Above left: Green, Jeff and Jill Moulton. Above right: Sophia Tink and 'Biggs' in front of a busy studio. Photos by Justin Belanger.

POTTERY CLASSES
OCTOBER & NOVEMBER / 6 WEEKS

THURSDAYS, OCT 24th - NOV 28th

Afternoons: 1-4pm
Evenings: 6:30-9pm

Handbuilding, Wheelwork + Decoration
Details @ www.blackbirdpottery.ca
5843 Gelert Road

PUBLIC MEETING
Proposed Change of Building Permit Fees

TAKE NOTICE pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Ontario Building Code Act, 1992 empowers Council to pass certain by-laws respecting construction, demolition, change of use, permits, fees and inspections.

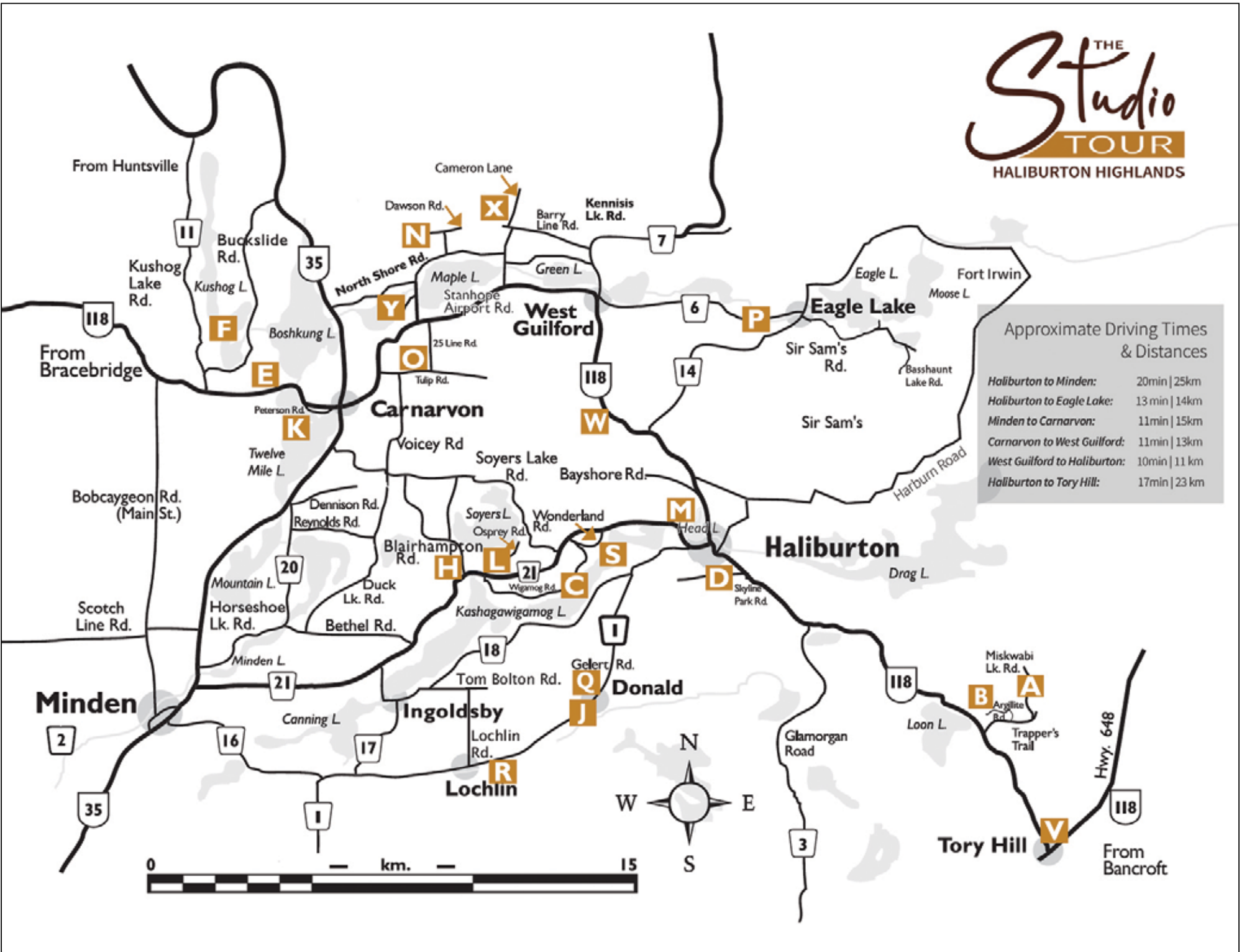
Pursuant to Section 7(6) of the Ontario Building Code Act, 1992, The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands will be holding a **Public Meeting on November 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, Ontario, to consider fee changes to the Building Fees. Information will be provided at the meeting on the estimated costs of enforcing and administering the Building Code Act, the amount of the proposed fee(s) and the rationale for changing and/or imposing fees.

AND PERSON may attend the meeting, and/or submit in writing, in support of or objection to the proposed fees setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons of the objection.

Additional information relating to proposed fee changes is available by contacting the **Greg Moore, CBO** during regular offices hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at 705-489-2379 ext. 330 or emailing gmoore@algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 9th day of October, 2024.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379 ext. 333
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca



Wild Haliburton Elephant Weavers
Haliburton County Studio Tour
1009 Camp White Pine Court

Oct 5,6,12,13 2024

Touch It

Wild Mohair.ca

Studio D

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ivycottagestudio@gmail.com

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harveywalkerart@gmail.com

STUDIO K

Studio C
ING Studios
Isabel Neveu-Geene

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Susan Hay is looking forward to seeing you at **Studio B**.

Her Haliburton themed acrylic landscapes will remind you of what we all love about Haliburton County

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www.susanhay.ca

THE Studio TOUR
HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

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Saturday, Oct 5 at Studio "N"
Ivy Cottage Fusion Arts

Saturday, Oct 12 at Studio "Q"
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Studio V




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Studio Q, 5843 Gelert Road



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STUDIO F

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gordonjones44@gmail.com
www.watercoloursbygordjones

**RENÉE WOLTZ**
705-306-9993
renee.woltz@gmail.com
renewoltz.wix.com/halikashpottery

**THE Studio TOUR**
HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

OCTOBER 5, 6 and OCTOBER 12, 13
10 AM - 5 PM

Top: Renee Woltz poses with her favourite pottery piece. Above: Harvey Walker with his pick for best painting. Photos by Justin Belanger.

Check out the tour this weekend!

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Fifth Highlands Challenge raises \$107,000

By Lisa Gervais

Participants in this year's Haliburton Highlands Challenge (HHC) removed musical notes, with first names written on them, from the walls and windows of Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre Oct. 6; and walked to the front of the centre's downstairs room to place them in a binder.

The names represented people on Brooksong's waiting list for a four-day cancer retreat. Those folks are now no longer on the list as the fifth annual HHC has raised more than \$107,000 to fund their free attendance at a future retreat, similar to one Jenny Hill did in August.

Hill told people gathered for the challenge celebration Sunday, "that experience was absolutely transformative." She said she was diagnosed with esophageal cancer about 18 months ago. She was in the process of early retirement to join the family business, "and that's when

our lives went upside down."

She and her partner were "so shocked and stunned and unable to process," they told nobody. "There we

were at home, shocked, unable to seek out support

because we were unable to process it ourselves." During that phase, her massage therapist told her about Brooksong. She signed up for a retreat, with anxiety and apprehension. She feared she would not be able to talk about cancer and it would be uncomfortable.

Upon arrival, though, she said she had, "never encountered an experience that permitted so much space, so much respect, with facilitators that were attuned, responsive, working with us with metaphors, which is ultimately what enabled me to start

to regain my voice; to be able to come to terms and acknowledge that, 'okay, you do have cancer, you have a battle ahead of you, but you are not your cancer, you are far more than your cancer'."

Executive director Barb Smith-Morrison said 17 teams, and more than 60 people, took part in this year's challenge. She added there were more than 500 donors from Canada and the U.S. They exceeded their goal of \$100,000, raising \$107,160.45.

She said there are 240 people on their waitlist and, "this is why we got moving..." She said they can now move 43 people off of the list.

Jennifer Ramsdale is a board member, registered massage therapist for retreats, and now in active treatment for cancer. She attended the first-ever retreat at Brooksong, and another this past August.

She said of the first retreat, she and her husband "benefitted amazingly from being able to step out of our life and have a bit

of time, and to have people who were in the same sorts of situations, who were able to listen and hold space for us, and really for each other."

This summer's retreat again gave her "a little bit of time, and space, to try to

process what (her returned cancer) means, and what that is like in my story now."

Find out more about Brooksong at brooksong.ca.

Top: Brooksong board member Thea Patterson with Santa. He came to support a team that walked a distance equivalent from Haliburton to the North Pole. Right: Brooksong executive director Barb Smith-Morrison announced they raised more than \$100,000 this summer.

Photos by Lisa Gervais.



Okay, you do have cancer, you have a battle ahead of you, but you are not your cancer, you are far more than your cancer.

**Brooksong retreat participant
Jenny Hill**

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until October 12. Join us for Wildlife Crafts on Thursdays from 3-4 pm, Toddler Discovery Zone on Fridays from 11 am – noon and Hands-On Saturdays from 10 am – noon. Self-guided tours of the Heritage Village are available daily. Admission is by donation.

• Join local artists Gary Blundell, Victoria Ward and Orillia-based filmmaker Jordan Vandenberg at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery on Saturday, October 19 at 2 pm for the screening of two documentaries: *Burner Herzog* and *Cobalt Blooms*. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with the filmmaker and artists. Admission is by donation.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

It's time to check your home heating system. Regularly replace furnace filters - keep all areas around the furnace and vent pipe clean and unobstructed. Make sure you clean your chimney before you start your wood burning appliance and store hot ashes in a fire safe container.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL OFFICE & FACILITIES CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

The Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office (7 Milne St.), the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena & Complex (55 Parkside St.) and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.) will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2024 for Thanksgiving.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Township of Minden Hills, PO Box 359, 7 Milne St., Minden, ON K0M 2K0
Tel: 705-286-1260 • admin@mindenhills.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

- Permit Clerk
- Planning Technician
- Community Services Casual Operator

Please visit our website for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- October 10 – Regular Council Meeting
- October 31 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

AVAILABLE TENDER

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tender available:
PW 24-002 - Tag-A-long Float Trailer

Visit our website or Contact Sherry Mulholland, Deputy Treasurer for more information. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Back by popular demand! The Township is hosting another confidential paper shredding event Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Please bring a food or toiletry donation to be donated to the local Minden Community Food Centre.

NO DAYTIME BURNING

No daytime burning. From April 1st to October 31st in any year is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 A.M. till 7:00 P.M. No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.



7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917

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Top left: Catherine Dyer, Stephanie Field and Norman Thomas pose for a photo. Top right: A group of students fight 'forest fires.' Above left: Cheryl McCombe speaks with another volunteer. Above middle: Dion Grosbeck gets the kids to run/swim upriver. Above right: Rachel Gilham quizzes the kids on bodies of water. Inset: Super Lena is ready for action. Photos by Justin Belanger.

Water festival doubles up on education

By Lisa Gervais

On Oct. 1-2, more than 850 Grade 4-6 students, with their teachers and parent volunteers, gathered at the Kinark Outdoor Centre to take part in the 19th annual Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival, more than doubling last year's participation.

Children engaged in hands-on fun at 36 activity-based learning stations set up across the site. Elementary schools from across the Trillium Lakelands District School Board and families of local homeschooling networks

were involved.

More than 150 volunteers helped children explore the vital connections between water health, ecosystems, and personal and community well-being through motivational experiences.

The festival, a flagship program of the Haliburton-based charity FEEL (Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning), is organized in partnership with U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research and the Kinark Outdoor Centre. Significant volunteer support came from high school students in the Kawartha Youth Leadership

in Sustainability (YLS) program and Trent University students from the School of the Environment.

This year, 12 community partners, such as Turtle Guardians, Muskoka Watershed Council, TRACKS (Trent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science) and the Algonquin Highlands and Haliburton fire crews enriched the programming through their hands-on activities.

"Students soak in messages on water conservation, technology, protection and science and come to understand that their attitudes towards water matter and that their

actions can and will make a difference," coordinator Kara Mitchell said.

She added through the waterheroes.ca website, students can continue their water stewardship journey. Flowing from the festival until the end of April, students, as well as their families, friends and classmates, can enter the Big Splash contest by sending in water-friendly actions they pledge to do in the year ahead. Donated prizes will be awarded to individuals, classes and schools making inspiring positive impacts on local water systems through their 'Water Hero' actions, Mitchell added.



Congratulations to GJ Burtch Construction. 2024 New Custom Home Build Winner – Ontario Home Builders' Association

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Melanie Hevesi**
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854-1000

Silverwood Road \$150,000

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- Many Lakes & Trails Nearby, Well Treed
- Less Than 10 Minutes to Minden

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Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
(705)
457-2128 ext. 233

Long Lake \$749,900

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Ashley McKeigue*
(705)
854-1833

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Brandon Nimigon***
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- Near The Famous Sir Sams Ski Hill

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Karen Nimigon**
(705)
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- Beautiful Views of Surrounding Slopes
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Kelly Kay*
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457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
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- 136 Highland St: 3Bed/2Bath, \$549,000
- Comm. Zoning in Downtown Haliburton





Darlene Reil*
(705)
854-2055

Hadlington Road \$169,000

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- Driveway Roughed In, Joining Crown Land
- Close to Wilberforce





Christine Sharp*
(416)
566-1592

Beautiful Carnarvon Home \$695k

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- 200' of Sandy Beach on Mirror Lake
- 3 Boat Launches Nearby, Close to Town





Greg Stamp*
(705)
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Families return from their trip to the pumpkin patch during another beautiful autumn day for Fall Fest at Abbey Gardens Oct. 5. Families enjoyed fun activities, including tractor rides to the pumpkin patch for the kids to pick a good Jack-o-lantern and see the fall colours. There were lots of crafts to do, including cookie and pumpkin decorating, face painting and a scavenger hunt. A big hit was the giant tractor bouncy house for kids. *(Justin Belanger).*

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Red-hot Huskies making a statement

By Mike Baker

It's six wins on the bounce for the Haliburton County Huskies as they keep pace with the Trenton Golden Hawks – this weekend's visitors to S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena – atop the OJHL East Conference.

The blue and white were embroiled in a pair of high-scoring barnburners this past weekend, besting the Niagara Falls Canucks 4-3 on home ice Saturday before a 5-4 road win over the Milton Menace on Sunday.

The explosive Huskies are the league's most in-form team, boasting the longest active winning streak and helping themselves to a boat load of goals – 29 in the last six games.

Forward Ty Petrou, an alternate captain this season, said the hometown team is heading into every game confident of getting a right result, having embraced head coach Ryan Ramsay's brand of quick, hard-hitting hockey.

"We're a bigger team, we play hard – there's almost an intimidation factor there for the other teams when they see how big our team is. We come out and play physical hockey every night," Petrou said. "We're an in-your-face hockey team and a lot of teams don't like that. We want to outwork the other team every single time. We expect to do that."

In his second and final season with the Huskies, 20-year-old Petrou has enjoyed a productive start to the new season, with 12 points in 10 games. He's one of four players on a point-per-game pace, alongside Nathan Poole (21 points in 10 games), blueliner Carson Littlejohn (11 points in 11 games) and rookie winger Sam Black (10 points in nine games).

With an 'A' stitched to his chest this season – one of three alternate captains alongside Poole and defenceman Raine Nadeau – Petrou said he's enjoyed taking on a bigger role in the locker room.

"It's a huge honour to be one of the leaders on this team. It means a lot that the coach and teammates see that, that they trust me



Nathan Poole grinds in front of the net during a 4-3 win over the Niagara Falls Canucks Oct. 4. Photo by Justin Belanger.

to be a leader and take over the room when things need to be said. That's big for me, holding one another accountable," Petrou said.

Huskies 4 Niagara Falls 3

The Huskies number 94 made a quick impression on the Canucks Saturday, breaking the deadlock after just 35 seconds. Petrou was assisted by Ryan Fairbairn and Ethan Wright, to the delight of the 412 home fans.

Black added a quickfire second at 3:53, assisted by Poole, for his eighth goal of the campaign.

Niagara fought back, potting a pair of goals either side of the first intermission to tie the game midway through the second. Fairbairn re-established the Huskies lead 14:17 into the

middle frame, assisted by Poole and Black.

Littlejohn got in on the action in the third, adding a powerplay marker at 8:40 for his second goal of the season. That stood as the game-winner – the Canucks added a late consolation, but the Huskies held on.

Huskies 5 Milton 4

This was a big special teams battle in the city, with the Huskies scoring on two of three powerplay opportunities and Milton putting up three goals on the man advantage.

It looked like being a comfortable evening for the blue and white – Chase Del Colombo established a lead 6:20 into the first, assisted by Isaac Larmand, before Poole and Larmand added two quick powerplay markers at 10:17 and 11:59. The Menace got on the board at 13:44 with a powerplay goal of their own.

Fairbairn added some gloss to the scoreline 5:15 into the second frame, but Milton roared back with a pair of goals – at 7:41 and 18:37 – to keep things close heading into the third.

Petrou looked to have killed the game off after being found by Poole 8:35 into the final frame, with the secondary assist going to goaltender Corbin Votary, but Milton added another powerplay marker at 10:49 to make for a nervy finish.

"We're figuring out the team we can be... everybody is contributing and filling their roles. If we keep doing that, the sky's the limit," Petrou said.

The Huskies have a road tilt with the Aurora Tigers Oct. 11 before a top-of-the-table clash with the Trenton Golden Hawks Oct. 12. Puck drop is 4 p.m.

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Bringing the world to Haliburton County

By Lisa Gervais

The team behind Those Other Movies says it's busy finalizing the lineup for the Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF) Nov. 1-3 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

Spokesperson Tammy Rea said, "after watching more than 50 films at the Toronto International Film Festival, and Sudbury's Cinefest, the committee is juggling and debating to select the best lineup to bring to Haliburton County."

However, she said, "stories will travel across time and geography, genre and language, and ideas and experiences, bringing the world and all its diversity to our community."

The final lineup will include seven movies; one Friday evening, four Saturday, and two Sunday.

Those Other Movies announced the first three offerings Oct. 8.

The first is *The Count of Monte Cristo*, a subtitled action-drama out of France.

Rea said, "this big budget, big screen film, with incredible costumes and sets, is based on the classic French novel by Alexandre Dumas. It was the most expensive film made in France in 2024. The film, by directors Alexandre de La Patelliere and Matthieu Delaport, begins in Marseille in 1815 and moves quickly through the years as the lead, Pierre Niney as Edmond Dantes, seeks revenge for a crime he did not commit.

The second offering is *Home Free*, a

Canadian drama.

Rea described this one as, "family secrets, family dynamics, the complexities of love: this powerful Canadian film has it all. Three estranged and very different daughters are invited home to their parent's house to celebrate an anniversary, but all does not go as expected. This movie is sure to make connections and evoke emotion." This film carries a trigger warning about suicidal ideas. She noted that director, writer, producer Avi Federgreen will be in attendance.

The third announced film is *Can I Get a Witness*, a Canadian sci-fi drama. Directed by Ann Marie Fleming, and with a Canadian cast including Keira Jang, Joel Oulette and Sandra Oh, Rea said, "this movie offers a provocative and thought-provoking 'solution' to the world's problems, including climate change, poverty and trans-species equality.

"What are you willing to do for the greater good? This film is a powerful look at personal grief, accepting death, and kindness towards one another.

The full lineup will be available at thoseothermovies.com when it is finalized.

Rea said, "as we consider programming, we are looking at going from really large films to super small films, true stories to science fiction, live action to animation, we are travelling through film and always making connections."

New committee member, Myra Stephen, added, "it's so exciting to see so many great films, then to work together collectively



Tammy Rea and Kate Campbell at last year's HIFF. *File.*

to figure out how to curate an experience that will be meaningful to the Haliburton community. Everyone brings a different perspective."

Rea said they are also happy to announce a new projector and audio system will be in

place for this year's festival "to improve the viewing experiences."

Weekend VIP passes are \$65 (\$60 for season's pass holders) and are available at thoseothermovies.com – or cash (\$10 per film) at the door.

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Fiddle will be flying at Minden United Church

By Lisa Gervais

The evening of Oct. 18 will bring time-honoured traditional fiddle singing, as the Haliburton County Folk Society brings Aleksí Campagne to Highland Hills United Church in Minden.

Born and raised in Montreal, the Folk Society says, "Aleksi's music blends folk songwriting with an edgy, multi-layered sound, resulting from his unique combination of voice, violin and looping-effect pedals."

His debut album, *For the Giving-Sans Rien Donner*, won a 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award for French songwriter of the year. It is bilingual, offering 10 songs in French and the same 10 in English. "Thematically, Aleksí's debut album is about all the firsts of growing up; from first loves to first moves, the first steps of your career, and even first breakups," the Folk Society said.

Campagne grew up with music. At five years old, he began performing alongside his mother, Canadian folk icon, Connie Kaldor. At 19, Campagne moved to Paris to study under jazz violin legend Didier Lockwood. At 21, he became the only student to have ever been accepted into the classical violin, the jazz violin, and the jazz voice performance programs at McGill University. Since then, Campagne has played some of Canada's most beloved festivals, including the Mariposa Folk Festival, Regina Folk Festival, Canmore

Folk Festival and Bear Creek Folk Festival. He was also named Penguin Eggs & Roots Music Canada's New Discovery of the Year.

In promoting the Minden concert, the Folk Society said Campagne "delivers an exciting live show of singing while bowing his violin and commanding the stage with his band."

The concert will be opened by local group, Northern Wildflowers, which is the duo of Sue Shikaze and Myrna McBrien. They specialize in harmonies with a repertoire that includes originals and covers of mostly female artists.

The two met in Kingston at Queen's University and have performed off and on for many years. Shikaze is a co-artistic director for the Folk Society's concert series and a radio host of Northern Aire on Canoe FM. When not singing, McBrien is an educator, professional artist, actor and director.

Doors for the concert open at 7 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. start. Tickets are \$35, \$30 for Folk Society members and students, \$40 at the door. Children and youth 18 & under are admitted for free. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets must be obtained online to reserve a ticket for children and youth. Tickets are available at haliburtonfolk.com

The show is presented by the Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information about the Coop, see haliburtoncooperative.on.ca.



Aleksi Campagne. Photo courtesy of Anna Sellers.

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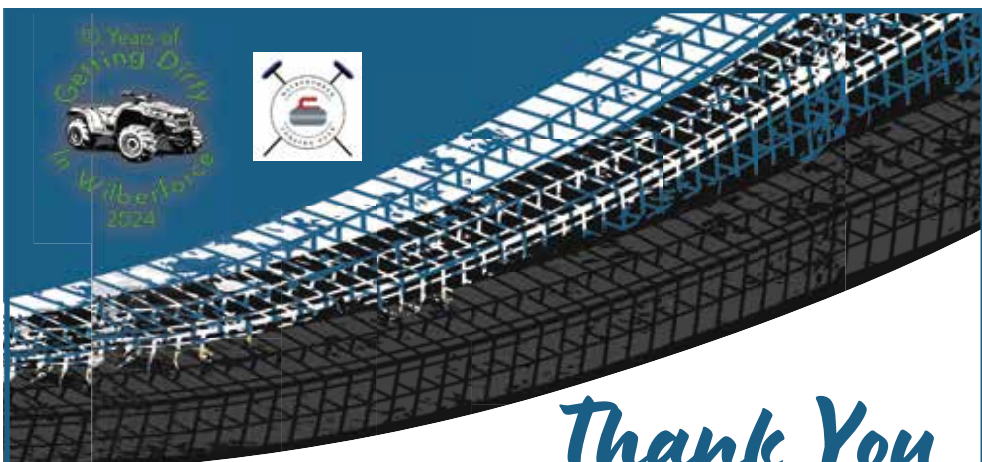
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The 10th Anniversary Wilberforce ATV ride is in the rear view mirror. And what a day it was!!

Again this year, the ride was a sold out success, with close to 200 riders and
over 20 volunteers participating.

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Riding on water

The Ontario Watercross Racing Association returned to the pond at Pinestone Resort the weekend of Sept. 28-29. The Saturday was their last race for points for this season. Sunday was still a race day but without points being awarded. It offered riders looking to move up a class an opportunity to see if it would be a fit for next year. (Lisa Gervais).

Riders race their snowmobiles around the oval. Photo by Justin Belanger.

EVENTS

Oct. 10, 5 p.m.
The Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands and University of King's College are partnering for a local book reading, featuring the late David Pate's piece *The Worst Songs in the World: the Terrible Truth about National Anthems* and Helga Rausch's *Leaders All: Women in the Armed Forces since WWII*. Taking place in the boatroom at the Dominion Hotel. Attendance by donation, light snacks provided.

Oct. 11, 1:30 to 7 p.m. THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
Fun-raiser for Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary at Sir Sam's Ski Resort.

Oct. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Join Harcourt artist Steve Turner at an open studio for an insight into impressionist works inspired by nature. Holly Hutchinson will also be in attendance as a guest artist. All are welcome at Turner's Straggle Lake studio, located at 2346 Sumcot Rd. For more information, text Steve at 416-414-5057 or Holly at 647-218-4418.

Oct. 14, 8 a.m.
Seniors activities are starting up again at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton, beginning with a walking group Monday morning. No registration necessary. The church is also hosting arts and crafts Oct. 15 at 10 a.m., seniors chair exercises Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. and euchre Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact glendaburk@yahoo.ca.

Oct. 17, 3 to 7 p.m.
Fall job and volunteer fair at the Haliburton legion. Whether you're a job seeker eager to explore career options, transition to a new field, or re-enter the workforce, come out and discover what opportunities await in the Highlands. There will be employment specialists available to assist. Pre-

registration is required. The first 50 attendees will receive a special gift. For more information, contact flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca or 705-313-1957.

Ongoing
Haliburton Highlands Writers and editors Network. Meet on the third Thursday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635.

Join the Haliburton County Public Library for family story time, weekly from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Minden library and Thursdays at the Dysart library. Appropriate for children up to the age of six. Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.
Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 6 to 10 p.m. Evening darts at 7 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes at 7 p.m.
Saturday: 2 to 11 p.m. Meat draw

Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Oct. 19 - Loonie auction at 7 p.m. Prizes include a Blackstone griddle, money trees, scratch ticket bundles, grocery gift cards, and much more. Bid items will be posted online at coboconklegion.ca. Admission is free, with food bank donations accepted. For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

Oct. 25 - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - lunch, sausage or liver and onions, cost is \$15 per person. Food bank donations would be appreciated.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
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Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.



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SOLUTIONS FOR OCTOBER 10

1	H	A	R	M		5	G	O	B	B	L	E		11	H	S	T		
14	I	D	E	O		15	A	N	T	H	E	M		16	A	H	H		
17	J	E	S	T		18	R	L	E	T	T	E		19	R	D	A	Y	
20	A	L	T	I		21	B	Y	A				22	R	E	I	D		
23	B	L	O	O	D	24	Q			25	M	E	D	I	A	T	O	R	
29	S	E	N	N	A					30	M	E	L	L	O	W	Y		
					31	T	H	E		33	M	A	L			34	U	S	E
					35	J	O	L	L	36	G	G	I	A	N	T			
39	H	A	E			41	S	O	S		42	S	A	N	O				
43	B	B	O	M	B	E	R			46	A	N	A	C	E				
50	P	A	P	O	O	S	E	51	S		52	G	I	R	L	S			
		53	S	A	D	R			54	E	A	R		56	S	C	O	T	
57	S	H	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	V			60	S	A	R	A		
61	T	E	D			62	T	A	M	A	R	I		63	U	N	I	T	
64	P	S	Y			65	O	N	E	T	O	N		66	E	A	S	E	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	S	A	L	T		5	T	V	P	G		9	B	A	C	K	13
14	O	D	I	E		15	L	U	A	U		16	E	C	L	A	T
17	D	O	L	L		18	C	E	N	S		19	U	S	D	A	T
20	O	R	A	L		21	B				22	E	T	H	I	C	S
23	I	N	C	O	L	D	B	L	O	O	D		26	S	I	M	
					29	N	A	R	Y			30	H	E	31	A	R
32	A	R	A		35	N	A	B	O			38	R	O	P	E	
39	S	E	L	E	40	C	T	I	V	E	41	M	E	M	O	R	Y
43	K	A	O	S				44	D	I	G	A	T		45	M	O
46	T	I	N	C	47	A	N			49	T	R	A	P			
51	O	R	E		52	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	F	55	O	57	
			58	T	O	T	E	R			60	S	I	N	G	E	
61	F	L	I	P	S	A	C	O	I	N		65	Z	O	L	A	
66	M	I	M	E	O			67	C	O	M	A		68	E	N	E
69	S	T	E	R	N			70	A	T	O	M		71	R	E	D

3	9	6	7	8	4	5	1	2
5	1	8	9	2	3	6	7	4
7	4	2	6	5	1	3	9	8
9	5	4	8	7	6	1	2	3
8	7	1	5	3	2	9	4	6
2	6	3	4	1	9	8	5	7
6	8	9	2	4	5	7	3	1
1	2	7	3	9	8	4	6	5
4	3	5	1	6	7	2	8	9

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Colour Scheme

(The circles apply to the Across answers only.)

Across

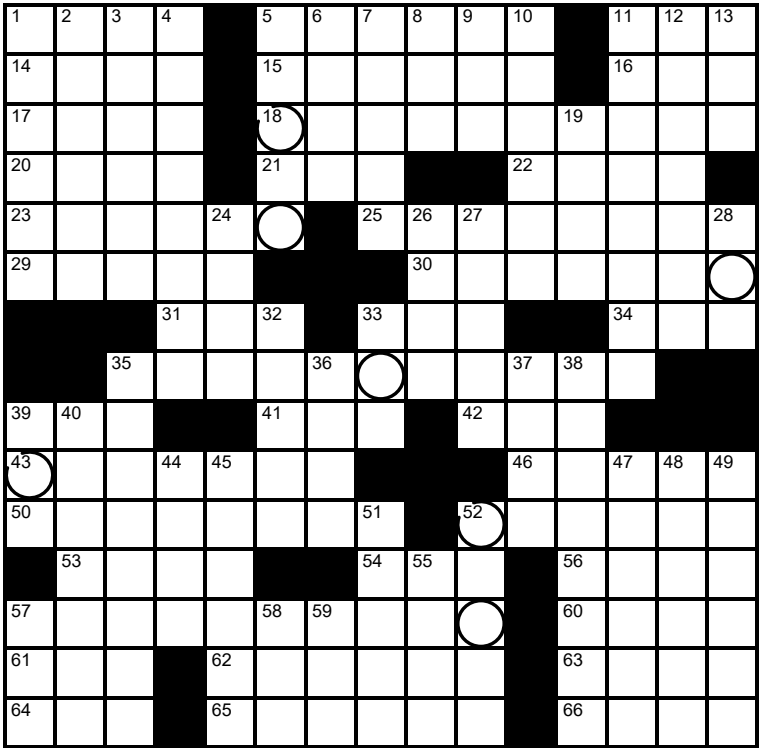
- 1 Break a doctor's vow
- 5 Turkey talk
- 11 Two-in-one levy in P.E.I.
- 14 Thought: Prefix
- 15 Country song?
- 16 What to say in a throat exam
- 17 Act the joker
- 18 Special occasion marked on a calendar
- 20 Lead in to -tude, meaning "height"
- 21 Not ___ long shot
- 22 Angus ___ Institute (vote tracker)
- 23 Fruit with crimson-colored flesh
- 25 Dispute middleman
- 29 Naturopathic herb
- 30 Donovan hit with the lyrics "They call me ___"
- 31 Most common word in English
- 33 ___ à la tête (headache: Fr.)
- 34 Do something with
- 35 Niblets mascot who says "ho ho ho"
- 39 Have, in the Hebrides
- 41 Shortest Abba song title
- 42 Brand prefix with Cat or Cone
- 43 Winnipeg football player
- 46 ___ up one's sleeve
- 50 Algonquin babies or baby carriers
- 52 "Hammer and Nail" folk duo
- 53 ___ City (Baghdad suburb)
- 54 Glasses arm rest
- 56 Many a bagpiper
- 57 Extremely timid type
- 60 ___ Lee (cake name)
- 61 Danson of "Cheers"
- 62 Soy sauce variety
- 63 Single item
- 64 ___ ops (intel tactics)
- 65 Heavy-duty pickup weight, maybe
- 66 Calm

Down

- 1 Muslim head scarves
- 2 Health food pioneer ___ Davis
- 3 Words before "one's laurels"
- 4 Summon with a signal

- 5 Actress wrongly quoted as saying "I want to be alone"
- 6 The first "O" in YOLO
- 7 Secondary squad
- 8 Food-preserving agt.
- 9 Allow
- 10 TV chef who yells "Bam!"
- 11 Argued to resolve an issue
- 12 Follows closely, as a job trainee
- 13 "Lord's Prayer" pronoun
- 19 Not imagined
- 24 He wrote of a chocolate factory
- 26 Periodical with a scroll bar
- 27 They're full of baloney
- 28 Canadian Club or Wiser's
- 32 Someone ___ problem
- 33 Pill measurements: Abbr.
- 35 Trivia show written with an exclamation mark
- 36 Old olden days
- 37 Jumbled-letter word: Abbr.
- 38 Unimportant matter
- 39 Letters meaning hypertension
- 40 Makes embarrassed
- 44 India's prime minister
- 45 Song title words with "run" and "be wild"
- 47 Things understood by few
- 48 "Phyllis" actress Leachman
- 49 Assets in a will
- 51 Upper house of "le Parlement"
- 52 NHL hockey announcer Dick
- 55 Word form for "crops"
- 57 Fuel additive brand
- 58 Nebr.'s southern neighbour
- 59 "___, Mine" (George Harrison book)

by Barbara Olson
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	8	6				9		2
		3	8	4			5	
1	5			9				
			9					7
					7	6		
				1			2	
	4	7	6				3	5
					8		9	
		9	5	3	1	4		



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